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Home of the Month

## Family Retreat

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This award-winning media room makes a splash by functioning as both a luxurious poolhouse and a sensational home theater.

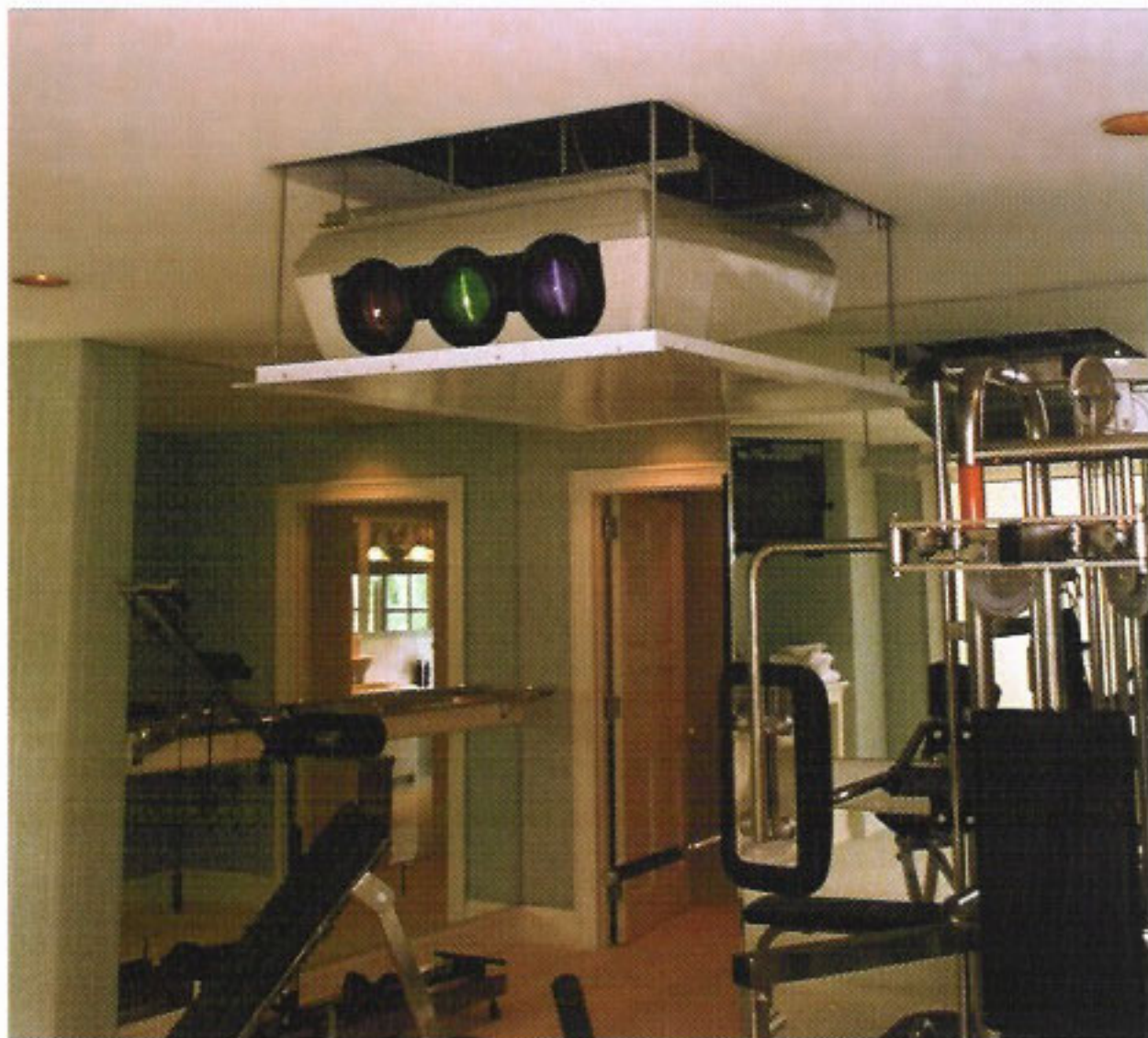
# Electronic Lifestyles Award

*Best Multipurpose Media Room—where  
back floats and blockbusters come together*

BY TOM SHEEHAN • PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOE MCNEILL

In the last issue of *Electronic House* we featured a home honored by the Custom Electronic Design and Installation Association (CEDIA) as having the best integrated home control system. In this issue, we showcase CEDIA's pick for the best multipurpose media room, a poolhouse that doubles as a home theater.





A Barco video projector mounted in the gym behind the poolhouse blasts the blockbuster action onto the 11-foot video screen that hangs 25 feet above the pool.

style video projector comfortably share space with a 30-by-50-foot swimming pool, gym, billiard room, video arcade and racquetball court.

The result is impressive even to the most sophisticated show biz types who drop in for a visit. With the touch of a button on a handheld AMX controller, the homeowner can set off a series of commands that in seconds readies the natatorium for an evening of back floats and blockbusters. A Barco video projector

drops from the ceiling, while a Sonance sound system and Pioneer laserdisc player rev up.

The video action splashes onto an 11-foot video screen mounted 25 feet above the pool within a wall of glass separating the gym and swimming area. An array of speakers and subwoofers fire audio into the room.

Although massive in size, the screen is amazingly discreet when not at work. "Most of the time, it resembles a tinted window," EDG president Bob Gullo says. "When you're in the room you don't even notice that it's a screen." Other potentially obtrusive electronic equipment like the 10 speakers and two large subwoofers were also hidden from view, stowed within the benches surrounding the swimming pool.

The ceiling-mounted video projector is found behind the screen in the adjacent gym, and a huge rack of audio/video processors sits in a corridor off the poolhouse. Placing these core components away from the water also protects the sensitive circuitry from moisture.

Although this is the first poolside system for the Electronics Design Group, it may not be the last. The multipurpose media room looks so terrific in EDG's portfolio that another client is thinking of having a similar system installed.

"This was a very fun project...very different from the everyday stuff," says Joe, who ordinarily designs home theaters for family rooms, bedrooms and dens. "This system only proves that you can have a home theater just about anywhere in the house." **EH**

To save space, homeowners often integrate home theater systems into family rooms, rec rooms or dens. The result is a multipurpose media room that functions

both as a traditional gathering place and a mini movie theater.

This wasn't the case, however, for a New York television executive. Her 10,000-square-foot home offered more than enough room for a dedicated home theater. But the innovative homeowner opted instead to situate the system where her parties usually wind up anyway: in the indoor poolhouse.



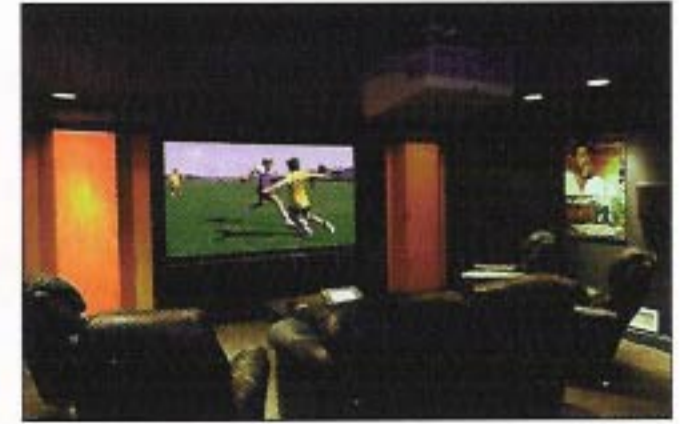
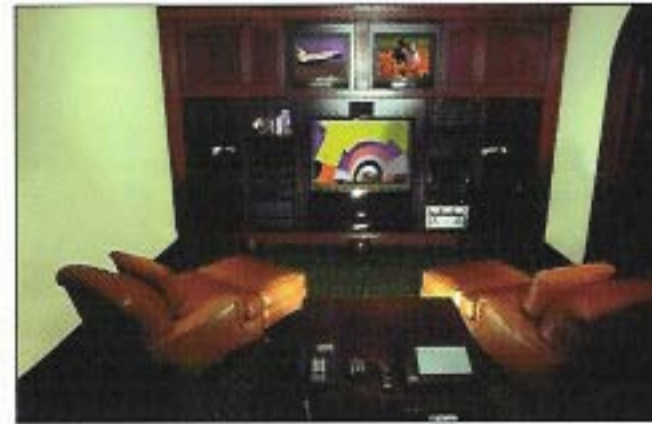
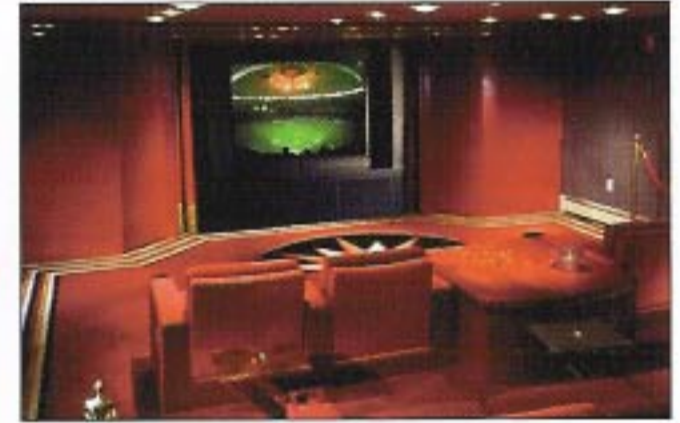
Sensitive audio/video components like the laserdisc player and surround sound processor reside in a rack outside the poolhouse where they are unharmed by moisture.

"She entertains a lot, sometimes 100 people at a time, and thought it would be fun to watch movies with her friends while they swam in the pool and soaked in the jacuzzi," says Joe McNeill of Electronics Design Group (EDG), the installation company honored with the CEDIA award.

Although an unusual request, the EDG team effectively meshed an elaborate audio/video system with the aquatic surroundings. A massive video screen, a host of speakers and a cinema-



# WHICH ONE DO YOU WANT?



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